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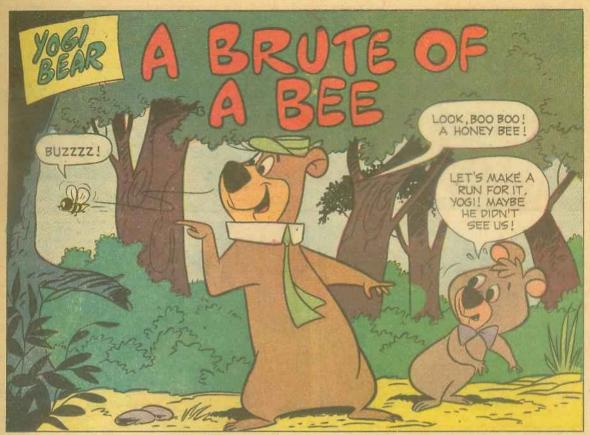
































































































































Biddy Buddy had been swimming from one end of his quiet, blue pond to the other all morning. He should have been a most happy fellow, but the tiny duckling kept dreaming of bluer waters and more excitement.

"I'll bet there is a pond somewhere that would be much nicer, where more things happen, and where the water would be cooler and bluer than in this old pond," he quacked discontentedly. "I wish I could find it."

"Ahem," honked a large mallard partially hidden among the willows. "I couldn't help overhearing you. I know just the place you are looking for. I'm on my way there now, if you would care to accompany me."

"I sure would," squawked Biddy Buddy excitedly. Then, kicking his little webbed feet furiously, fluttering his wings, and skimming over the water until he was going fast enough for a take-off, he turned south to follow Mr. Mallard.

It seemed as if they had been flying for miles when Mr. Mallard swooped low and glided in for a landing on a small green knoll at the edge of a crystal-blue pond.

It looked like a painting to Biddy Buddy as he, too, glided in for a landing and planted his feet firmly on the ground again.

"Well, here we are. You're on your own now," said Mr. Mallard, as he joined a group of ducks who apparently had been waiting for him to arrive.

Biddy Buddy nodded his thanks. Everything was exactly as he had hoped: blue, blue water; green, green grass; ducks everywhere; and excitement around every corner.

Biddy Buddy suddenly realized that he was hungry, so he decided to search for a tasty tidbit along the edge of the water. He

waddled over to the bank and dove in with a splash. When he bobbed to the surface, he saw some children running to the edge of the pond, laughing and shouting and throwing popcorn into the water.

Biddy Buddy splashed about excitedly. All he succeeded in doing was to create a small whirlpool, and he found himself going 'round and 'round in circles.

Then, before he knew it, he was surrounded by ducks of all sizes. They were quacking and honking and snapping at the white bits floating on the surface of the water. As fast as the kernels fell onto the pond, the ducks snapped them up in their hungry bills. Biddy Buddy was pushed from side to side by the larger birds, and he was not able to catch any of the fluffy white popcorn.

Paddling over to the bank, Biddy Buddy flapped up out of the water, where he thought he would be safer, and landed right in the middle of a football game. He scooted as fast as his short duck legs could scoot, back to the water. With his luck, he might end up becoming the football.

Splash! "Safe at last," he panted. He was still gasping for air when he was bumped by a motorboat skimming across the pond.

Puffing and panting, quacking and paddling, the little duckling finally managed to swim to the safety of a garden of lily pads. He floated there in the quiet water until he had recovered from his adventures in the new pond.

"Mother told me that the water only looks bluer in the other fellow's pond," he quacked, as he winged his way back home to his own pond in the wildwood—a tired and wiser Biddy Buddy.

























































































































































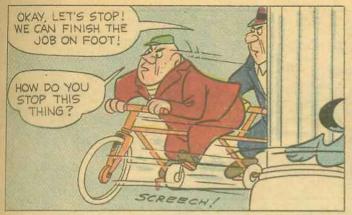




































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